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## THE LATE SIR FRANCIS TURVILLE.

*Ottawa Citizen, 9th January, 1890.*

The recent death in England of Sir Francis Fortescue Turville will doubtless revivie in the recollection of not a few pleasant memories associated with an almost remote past in Ottawa, when Lord and Lady Lisgar, assisted by the subject of this notice as Chief Secretary to his Lordship, exercised a graceful, if not a very diffusive, hospitality at Rideau Hall. Lord Lisgar became Governor-General of Canada in 1868, and remained the full term of five years. On his arrival the great measure of Confederation had but recently been accomplished, but considerable friction in the machinery of Government existed in one portion at least of the new Dominion. It required a policy of equal firmness and conciliation to meet the emergency, and Lord Lisgar (or Sir John Young, as he then was), with his long and varied experience in Government, was just the man for the occasion. When this "difficulty" had been adjusted, new troubles sprang up in connection with the acquisition of the North-Western Territories, necessitating the dispatch to the far distant scene of insurrection of a formidable military force. Then followed Fenian incursions over our eastern border; important negotiations looking to the admission into the Union of no less than three outlying Colonies; and towards the close of his administration a great deal of weighty correspondence respecting the settlement of the Atlantic Fisheries' matter, and in preparation for the meeting of the famous Joint

High Commission, which resulted in the Treaty of Washington.

It will thus be seen that Lord Lisgar's term of office was more than usually eventful, and entailed on him more than ordinary care and good judgment. Happily for him and for the country, in addition to his own powers, he possessed in his chief adviser a statesman of tried experience and unwonted sagacity, who was more than equal to the political requirements, and when that great man was prostrated by an almost mortal illness, the Governor-General could turn with almost equal confidence to the second in command, the late Sir George Cartier. Then he had also in Turville, his Secretary a friend and councillor, whose able and ready assistance had been of incalculable service to him in the past both at Corfu and in New South Wales. Indeed, in this respect it may be affirmed that the subject of this notice was to his official superior all that Hewitt Bernard had been for so many years to Sir John Macdonald; that Laurence Oliphant was to Lord Elgin; or the extraordinarily gifted Charles Buller to the great Earl of Durham. Greater praise, in this regard, it is impossible to bestow. Apart from his official personality, the late Sir Francis Turville was known to a few only outside the immediate circle in which he moved, but to those few his memory will always be specially dear as that of one singularly gifted with personal graces and scholarly attainments. He belonged to an ancient English Catholic family and was educated at St. Mary's College, Oscott. His early years were devoted to the army, for which he had always a fondness. In support of this it may be stated that while in Ottawa he was an almost constant attendant at the early Sunday morning service formerly held by the venerable Dr. Dawson in the crypt of the Basilica, for the benefit of the Roman Catholic portion of

Her Majesty's regular troops, then in garrison in this city. We would add that the deceased gentleman was devoutly attached to his religion, and when called upon to contribute towards the relief of the poor, or for other good works, was never slow to give practical proof of his piety and benevolence.

We have spoken of the pleasant relations which marked Lady Lisgar's potent social sway at Government House. The mention of the fact calls up visions of no less than two royal visits to Ottawa during her former husband's period of service—that of the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia and that of our own Prince, the present Duke of Connaught, and of the round of festivities, viceregal and otherwise, which attended those important State occurrences. An interesting souvenir of the event last named recently came under our notice in the form of a well executed photograph by Topley of a group of the youthful Prince and his friends taken on the lawn at Rideau Hall. The twenty years which have since elapsed have naturally wrought many changes in the lives and fortunes of those represented in the picture. Death has been busy in their midst. Pickard one of the Prince's Equerries, is no more; Earle, afterwards a distinguished general, found a soldier's glorious death in Egypt; Lord Lisgar, himself, the genial-hearted Irish gentleman and able administrator, has passed over the silent river; and now Turville, his erstwhile Secretary and who married his beautiful and accomplished widow, is also called away, in the noontide of his strength and happiness! The picture representing as it does a past event in the life of the popular Prince, will doubtless be doubly prized by his admirers now that His Royal Highness is once again to visit this country. It remains only to add, to complete the record, that Sir

Francis Turville, after his marriage with the Baroness Lisgar, abandoned official life, and lived alternately at Bailieborough Castle, Cavan, and at his own seat, Bosworth Hall, Leicestershire, at which latter place he died on the 20th ult., aged 58. The lamented gentleman was a Justice of the Peace and a Deputy Lieutenant of his county; and in 1875, in acknowledgement of his public services, had conferred on him a Knight Commandership of the order of St. Michael and St. George.

The beauty of a life well spent  
Is his majestic monument.

*Mufti.*

#### Letter of thanks from Lady Lisgar.

Lady Lisgar has written Mr. Henry J. Morgan, of Ottawa, ("Mufti"), returning her sincere thanks for his eloquent notice of her deceased husband, Sir Francis Turville, in the OTTAWA CITIZEN, which was reproduced in the CHRONICLE some weeks ago. "It was indeed most gratifying," says her ladyship, "to get such a remembrance, and written so very well, after the lapse of nearly a generation. It is difficult to express how pleased she was." Lady Lisgar further says that she has indeed suffered intensely in the loss she has experienced, but adds, "her loss is her husband's great, unspeakable gain, and she is resigned."

In this connection, it will doubtless be interesting to old friends to reproduce the resolution passed at a meeting of condolence held by the Conservative electors of Leicester shortly after the death of the lamented gentleman:—

"That this meeting sympathises most deeply with Lady Lisgar in her bereavement on the death of her husband, Sir Francis Turville, who was universally loved and esteemed. It is felt by this meeting that in the death of Sir F. Turville the Conservative party have lost a Chief, not only of conspicuous abilities, but one who, by his high personal character and kindly disposition, had endeared himself, to all with whom he was associated."

Mr. Morgan, the author of the article referred to and of many valuable Canadian works of reference, has, we see, just been elected an honorary member of the Society of Canadian Literature of Montreal. —*Quebec Chronicle.*